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SPECIAL MEETING, JANUARY, 1793.

A special meeting of the Society was held at the house of the President, Jan. 2, 1793.

Mr. ALDEN BRADFORD was chosen a Resident Member, and Hon. NATHANIEL NILES, Esq., of Fairlee, Vermont, a Corresponding Member.

Rev. John Prince, of Salem, was nominated for a Resident Member by Dr. Cutler.

Voted, That the Committee for superintending the press the last year be a committee to contract for the printing business of the Society this ensuing year.

Voted, That the President, Dr. Thacher, Mr. Tudor, and Mr. Webster be a committee for superintending the press and collecting materials for the ensuing year.

Voted, That the Recording Secretary procure a suitable number of blank notifications to be printed.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

At a meeting of the Historical Society, held on the last Tuesday of January, 1793, being the twenty-ninth day of said month, —

The following donations were received: —

Sundry Curiosities from the Sandwich Islands and the North-west Coast, from Mr. Lewis Hoyt.
A number of Copper Coins, from Rev. John Eliot.
A Copper Medal of Mr. Pitt, from Mr. Thomas Pemberton.
A curious Rose.
A Milliped, found at Hopkinton.
Some Teeth of the Spermaceti Whale.

Robert Calef's book, entitled "More Wonders of the Invisible World," from William Parker, Esq., of Exeter, New Hampshire.

The History of New Hampshire, in three volumes, and a Discourse on the Discovery of America, by Rev. Dr. Belknap. From the author.

Josephus Acosta, De Orbe Novo, from Dr. Amasa Dingley.

The Worcester Gazette, for 1792, from Isaiah Thomas, Esq.

The Boston Gazette, for 1792, from Mr. Benjamin Edes.

Life of Sir William Phipps, from Mr. Josiah Eliot.

Life of General Monk, from Mr. Peter Thacher, Jr.

Burnaby's Travels, Bartram's Travels, The American Traveller, Gazette of the United States, from June, 1792, to January, 1793. From William Tudor, Esq.

Sheffield's Observations on the American Trade, from Mr. Redford Webster.

An Epistle from Yarico to Inkle. Printed and presented by Mr. Isaac Story.

London Magazine, for 1766, from the same.

A number of Newspapers, from Rev. John Eliot.

Flint's Sermons, from Mr. Joseph Kettell.

Interest of Great Britain, with regard to her Colonies, from Dr. Franklin. 1760.

North Britain Extraordinary, and several other pamphlets, from Mr. Daniel Greenleaf.

Copy of a Plan of Plymouth, originally taken by Charles Blaskowitz, from James Winthrop, Esq.

Three files of Manuscript Letters from the Library of the late Dr. Coleman, from Rev. Dr. P. Thacher.

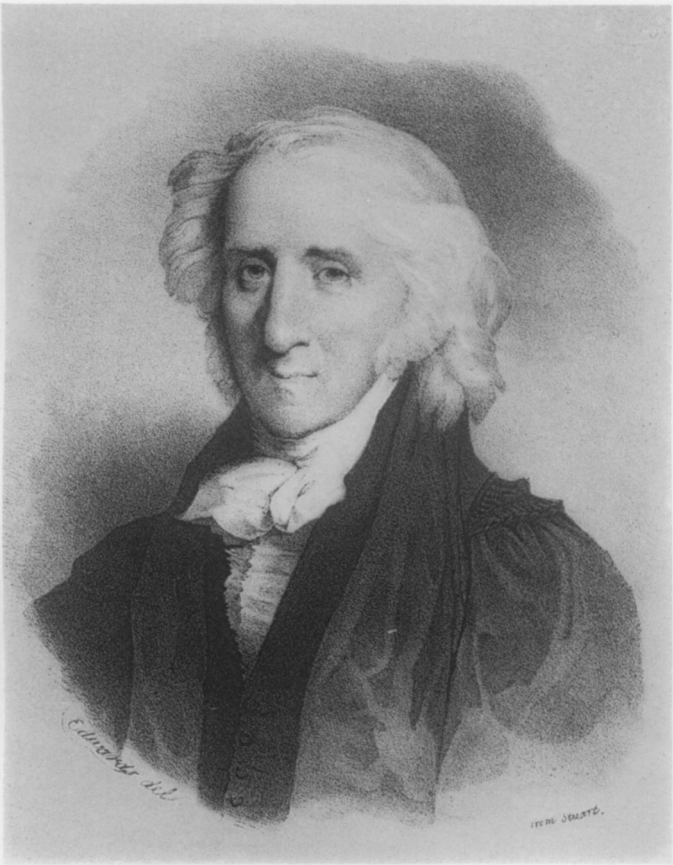
Rev. JOHN PRINCE was chosen a member.

A letter from Rev. Alexander Spark, accepting his election, was read.

Letters from Dr. Samuel Tenney, Nathaniel Freeman, Esq., and Rev. Dr. Ezra Stiles, accepting their elections respectively, were read.

The Committee appointed to contract for the printing business of the Society the ensuing year reported that they had contracted with Messrs. Belknap and Hall, as follows, viz.: —

It is this day agreed between Jeremy Belknap, John Eliot, and James Freeman, Committee of the Massachusetts Historical Society, on the one part, and Belknap & Hall, printers, on the other part, to print fifty copies of the Historical Collections at two pence one farthing a sheet, each copy to contain one sheet and a half, monthly, for the term of three



James Freeman

Heliotype Printing Co., 220 Devonshire Street, Boston.

months; and, provided the said Belknap & Hall shall sell four hundred copies, the price to be reduced to one penny a sheet.

Nominations:—

Dudley Atkins Tyng, Esq., by John Davis, Esq.; Ezekiel Price, Esq., by James Sullivan, Esq.

Voted, That Mr. Freeman be appointed to purchase Bibliotheca Americana for the Society.*

That Mr. Freeman and Mr. Eliot be a committee to procure to be bound such copies of newspapers as are complete, and twenty copies of the first volume of the Collections.

That the Treasurer send the accounts of the several members of their annual assessments.

That the Secretary and Treasurer be empowered to print such blanks as they may find necessary.

That the President, Mr. Minot, and Mr. Wetmore be a committee to consider the expediency of applying to the General Court for an act of incorporation; and to bring in a draft of a petition and a bill for that purpose, if they judge proper, at the next quarterly meeting.

That Mr. Coffin and Mr. Davis be a committee to procure a set of the Journals, Acts, and Resolves of Congress and the General Court, for the use of the Society.

ANNUAL MEETING.†

At a meeting of the Historical Society, on Tuesday, the 30th April, 1793,—

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* For a description of this book, published in London in 1789, see the Society's catalogue, and also John Carter Brown's catalogue under the year 1789. — Eds.

† The Rev. James Freeman being now elected Recording Secretary, which office he held for many years, the records in his beautiful hand begin at this place. — Eds.

The members proceeded to the annual election of officers: —

HON. JAMES SULLIVAN, ESQ.,	was chosen	PRESIDENT.
WILLIAM TUDOR, ESQ.	"	TREASURER.
REV. JEREMY BELKNAP, D.D.	"	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.
MR. JAMES FREEMAN	"	RECORDING SECRETARY.
HON. GEORGE R. MINOT, ESQ.	"	LIBRARIAN AND CABINET-KEEPER.
HON. JAMES WINTHROP, ESQ.	"	STANDING COMMITTEE.
REV. PETER THACHER, D.D.		
DR. REDFORD WEBSTER		

The following donations were received: —

For the Library: —

Portlock's Voyage, from Christopher Gore, Esq.

Collection of New Hampshire Gazettes, from 1756 (when first published) to 1786, from Samuel Penhallow, Esq., of Portsmouth.

Meteorological Observations made at Halifax, Nova Scotia, for January and February, 1793, from Dr. Peters.

Independent Advertiser, for 1749, and a number of Election Sermons, from Dr. Nathaniel Noyes.

Abridgment of Raleigh's History of the World, from Mr. Robert Molineux.

Two very curious Manuscripts in parchment, from Miss Polly and Miss Kitty Byles.

A collection of Pamphlets, from Mr. John Dabney, of Salem.

A curious Manuscript, from Mr. Jeremy Belknap, Sen.

Fifty numbers of Voltaire's Works, from John Lucas, Esq.

Journals of Congress for 1774, a few Pamphlets, and several Newspapers. From William Greenleaf, Esq.

Fifteen volumes of the Essex Gazette, from Rev. William Bentley, of Salem.

Original Fragment of Massachusetts Charter,* and a volume containing a Speech of James I. and other Tracts. From Miss Elizabeth Davis.

Harrington's Century Sermon, from John Whiting, Esq.

Hughes's History of Barbadoes, from Dr. Redford Webster.

For the Cabinet: —

A Specimen of Animal Preservation, from Mr. Jeremy Belknap, Sen.

A Golden Cock, from Mr. Gardiner Baker, of New York.

A Tarantula, from Mr. Elisha Sigourney.

A Davis's Quadrant, made of pear tree, in 1676, by James Halsey, of Boston, the first instrument maker in America. From Mr. Andrew Newell.

A very large Flamingo, from Mr. William Hussey, Jr.

Members chosen: DUDLEY ATKINS TYNG, Esq., and EZEKIEL PRICE, Esq., were chosen Resident Members.

* A roll of several pieces of the Provincial Charter. — EDS.

Rev. ANDREW BROWN, D.D., of Halifax, was chosen a Corresponding Member.

Nomination: Mr. Samuel Turell, by Rev. Dr. Belknap.

The Hon. Mr. WINTHROP, being appointed a committee to examine the Treasurer's accounts, attended that service, and reported that he found the accounts correct; that the receipts to the present time amount to £48 16*s*., the expenses to £29 3*s*. 0¼*d*., and that there remains in the hands of the Treasurer a balance of £19 12*s*. 11¾*d*.

Voted, That this report be accepted.

Voted, That the key of the Library be kept at the house of the Librarian.

Voted, That the quarterly meeting on the last Tuesday in July be held at Winthrop's Island; and that William Tudor, Esq., Rev. John Eliot, and Dr. Aaron Dexter be a committee to procure a boat and provide the necessary accommodations.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

At a meeting of the Historical Society, on Tuesday, the thirtieth day of July, 1793, at Winthrop's or Governor's Island, —

The following communications were made: —

Topographical and Historical Account of York, by the Hon. Judge Sewall.
Topographical Description of Hartford, by Noah Webster, Jr., Esq.
Topographical Description of Middleborough, accompanied with a plan, by Mr. Bennett.

Topographical Description of Holliston, accompanied with a plan, by Rev. Mr. Dickinson.

Topographical Description of the Town of Barnstable, by Rev. Mr. Mellen.*

The following donations were received: —

For the Library: —

Fragment of a MS. Letter-book of Governor Bradford, of Plymouth, from 1624 to 1630, found in a grocer's shop in Halifax, Nova Scotia. From James Clarke, Esq., of Halifax.†

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* These several Topographical Descriptions were printed in Vol. III. of the Collections, pp. 1–21. — EDS.

† This fragment of Governor Bradford's Letter-book was printed in Vol. III. of the Collections, making fifty pages. It appears from a note at the beginning of the printed text that the MS. of the part preserved began with "page 339, the preceding pages wanting," and covered the years 1624-1630. This shows that what was recovered was but a small part of what was lost; while it is probable that the collection originally contained also letters of a later date than 1630. Governor Bradford's History closed with the year 1646, and the letters which he had preserved to illustrate that part of the narrative, from 1630 to its conclusion, may have been included in his Letter-book, as well as those used in the earlier portion. The fragment recovered may have been one volume of a series continuously paged. The fortunate recovery of Governor Bradford's History, some sixty years after Mr. James Clarke rescued this fragment from a grocer's shop in Halifax, happily supplies to a certain extent the place of the Letter-book; for, while the author did not copy into his History all these letters, we may well suppose him, judging from the use he made of those preserved, to have used the most valuable part of them.

The finding of this manuscript in Halifax naturally suggests the thought that it left Boston at the time of the "evacuation," in March, 1776; and, it being well known that the British soldiers during the occupation of Boston had free access to the Historical Library of books and manuscripts of the Rev. Thomas Prince, kept in a room in the tower of the Old South Meeting-house, that it was taken from that collection. This is not improbable. There may be no positive evidence that Prince's Library then contained this Letter-book, yet we know that it was once in Prince's possession. For, besides the manuscripts of Bradford, which he mentions, in the preface to his Chronological History, as having had an "opportunity to search," — namely, "Bradford's History of Plymouth People and Colony," in folio, and "A Register of Governor Bradford's, in his own hand, recording some of the first deaths, marriages, and punishments at Plymouth, with three other miscellaneous volumes of his," in octavo, — he several times refers, in his notes on the margin of Bradford's manuscript History, to "Governor Bradford's Collection of Letters." See pp. 47, 61, 64, and 71 of the printed volume.

The following is the letter of Mr. Clarke which accompanied the manuscript:

"HALIFAX, May 28, 1793.

"SIR, — The enclosed ancient manuscript I found some years ago in a grocer's shop in this town, of whom I obtained it with a view of saving what

Helvici Chronologia, from Rev. John Clarke.

A MS. Election Sermon in Plymouth Colony, 1686, by Rev. Jonathan Russell, then of Barnstable, from Mr. Isaiah Lewis Green.

Memoirs of the Church at Midway, in Georgia, from Rev. Abiel Holmes.

Rawson's Translation into the Indian language of the Westminster Confession, from Mr. Timothy Alden, Jr.

Dr. Colman's Election Sermon, 1738, from Mr. Samuel Whitwell, Jr.

One hundred Pamphlets, from Mr. Samuel Whitney.

A volume of mixed Tracts of the last century, from Mr. James White.

A Philosophical Manuscript, by Charles Morton, from Mr. James Thomson.

Several ancient Pamphlets, from Mr. Robie.

A number of Election Sermons of the last century, several numbers of the American Museum, several valuable Pamphlets, and several Manuscripts and Engravings. From Dr. Nathaniel Noyes.

New England's Prospect, 1764, A New Survey of the West Indies, Eliot's Indian Bible, 1663, Reflections on the Council of Trent, Institutiones Linguæ Græcæ, N. Clenardo Authore, 1590, The Abridgment of all the Statutes of England made in the thirty-first year of Henry VIII., Biblia Sacra, 1596, and seven Pamphlets. From Mrs. Coffin.

Ninety-one Pamphlets, from Rev. Mr. Whitman, of Wellfleet.

Fourteen Pamphlets, from Mr. Peter Thacher, Jr.

Several valuable Papers, from Dr. Erskine, of Edinburgh.

Forty-four numbers of Voltaire's Works, and Bacon's Natural History. From Dr. Dexter.

The Proceedings of Two Conventions, held at Portland, to consider the expediency of a separate government in the District of Maine* (in MS.); A Defence of the Title of the late John Leverett, Esq., to the Muscongus Lands [by Samuel Waldo]. From Daniel Davis, Esq.

For the Cabinet: —

Eleven pieces of coin, a large Conch from Jamaica, a Chinese Woman's Shoe, and a Fossil Substance. From Mr. Thomas Fleet.

A Chair of antique fashion, from Mr. Hathorne, of Salem.

Some specimens of Animal Preservation, from Dr. Peters.

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remained from destruction. I lament extremely that a page has been torn out; and it gives me pleasure that I now have an opportunity of placing it in your hands, — a freedom I am induced to take from your advertisement of the first of November, 1792, and from a persuasion that it may contribute in some measure to the important objects of your Society, and I could wish I might otherwise be serviceable.

"I am, respectfully, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

"JAMES CLARKE.

"The Rev. JEREMY BELKNAP."

Where the writer speaks of a *page* being torn out, he probably means that one *leaf* had been torn out of the volume. Bradford may have written on one side only of the leaf in copying his letters, as he generally did in writing his History, so that one leaf would represent one page of writing. — EDS.

* See Collections, Vol. IV. p. 25. — EDS.

The thanks of the Society were voted to those gentlemen who are not members for their donations.

Mr. Samuel Turell was chosen a Resident Member.

Voted, That Messrs. Eliot and Freeman, chosen a committee at the meeting in January to procure to be bound such copies of newspapers as are complete, and twenty copies of the first volume of the Collections, be directed to procure a number of volumes of newspapers to be bound according to their best discretion, whether the newspapers be complete or not; and that they be enjoined to demand of the printers of the Historical Collections the numbers which are deficient, and which they have not yet supplied, according to their agreement.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

At a meeting of the Historical Society, on Tuesday, the 29th of October, 1793, —

The following communications were received: —

A MS. Letter from Governor Thomas Hinckley to the Selectmen and Inhabitants of Duxbury, dated Barnstable, 6 Feb., 1685. Presented by Mr. Isaiah Lewis Green.

MS. Description of Nova Scotia, supposed to be written by the Surveyor-General of the Province. Presented by Rev. Dr. Brown, of Halifax.*

A Topographical Description of the County of Prince George, in Virginia, by Rev. John Jones Spooner.*

The following donations were received: —

For the Library: —

A number of volumes of Newspapers, bound, and several unbound; and a Law of the State of New York, dividing the State into Townships. From Rev. Jedediah Morse.

Several numbers of Dr. Franklin's Newspapers, from Mr. John Furnass.

Twenty-five volumes, bound, and forty Pamphlets, from Colonel William Scollay.

Twelve volumes, bound, on various subjects, from Mr. William Coolidge.

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* These Descriptions were printed in the Collections, Vol. III. — Eds.

Copy of a Letter from the Bishop of Capsa, Coadjutor of Quebec, to the President of the Committee on Education; the Paper read at the Bar of the House of Commons by Mr. Lymburner, Agent to the Subscribers to the Petition from the Province of Quebec; Ancient French Archives or Extracts from the Minutes of Council, relating to the Records of Canada, whilst under the government of France; and a Report of the Committee of Council on the subject of Promoting the Means of Education. From Rev. Alexander Spark, of Quebec.

Several MS. Papers; Fair Dealing between Debtor and Creditor, 1716; Samuel Coolidge's Sermon, preached at Castle William upon the Death of the Queen, 1738; The Right Way to Shake Off a Viper, 1720; A Description of the Curiosities at Wilton House; and Miscellaneous Reflections, occasioned by the Comet which appeared in December, 1680, by Mr. Bayle. From Madam Devereux, of Marblehead.

A Case decided in the Supreme Court of the United States, — Chisholm *v.* The State of Georgia, from Mr. Thomas Adams.

Five Political Pamphlets, from Mr. Gardiner Baker, of New York.

A collection of Newspapers, 1704 and 1719–1734, also fifteen Pamphlets. From Rev. Isaac Mansfield, of Marblehead.

An Answer to the Remarks of the Plymouth Company, 1753; Observations, Historical and Practical, on the Rise and Primitive State of New England, 1730; A Discourse concerning the Currencies of the British Plantations in America, 1740; The Art of Pleading, addressed to the Pettifoggers of New York; and A Speech made to Governor Shute by Cotton Mather, 1717.

Mr. Gurney's Sermon at the Ordination of Mr. Richmond, from Messrs. T. & J. Fleet.

Dr. Lathrop's Sermon at the Dudleian Lecture, from Mr. James White.

Funeral Sermon on Governor Pitkin, and Poems of Roger Wolcott, from Rev. Mr. McClure, of East Windsor.

Artillery Election Sermons, from Colonel Josiah Waters.

A bound volume, from Mr. James Freeman.

For the Cabinet: —

A French Coin, commemorative of the event of the 14th July, 1790, and a Bone of the Sawfish, from Mr. William Miller, Jr.

A Hottentot Ornament for the arm, made of bone, from Mr. William Hussey, Jr., of Nantucket.

A Marine Production, from Mr. William Coolidge.

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be given to the above gentlemen for their donations.

Nomination: Rev. John Jones Spooner, Rector of Martin's Brandon, Virginia, a Corresponding Member, by Mr. Winthrop.

The Catalogue of the Library being reported, —

Voted, That the Librarian procure it to be copied at the expense of the Society.

The Society then adjourned to the last Tuesday in November, at 3 o'clock P.M. The Recording Secretary is directed to notify the members of the meeting as well by the newspapers as in the usual mode.

ADJOURNED MEETING.

At a meeting of the Historical Society, held, by adjournment, on Tuesday, the twenty-sixth day of November, 1793, —

The following communication was made: —

A Topographical Description of Wellfleet, by Rev. Levi Whitman.*

The following donations were received: —

For the Library: —

A new edition of the Captivity of Rev. John Williams, with additions by Rev. John [Taylor and others, 1793], from Mr. Thomas Dickman.

Three Sermons preached before the Society for Propagating the Gospel, from Rev. Dr. Thacher.

A printed copper-plate list of the First Purchasers and Settlers under William Penn, from Mrs. Russell, the wife of Mr. John Russell.

For the Cabinet: —

A Demarara Opossum, stuffed, from Captain Peter Chace.

A Fish Hook, from Nootka Sound, from the President.

An Indian Pestle, found at Newton, from Mr. William Googs.

Several Copper Coins and one Silver Coin, from Mr. James Thwing.

Shells taken out of the cliff at Rainsford's Island, from Mr. James Freeman.

A Portrait of Ankerstroom, from Captain Benjamin Homans.

Letters from Mr. James Clarke, of Halifax; † from Dr.

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* This was printed in Vol. III. of the Collections. — Eds.

† Mr. James Clarke continued to correspond with the Society. His discovery of the Bradford manuscript had given hopes that some other treasure of a simi-

Brown, of Halifax, accompanying a topographical description of Nova Scotia; from Rev. Mr. Spark, of Quebec, accompanying several pamphlets; and from Ebenezer Hazard, Esq., offering to sell Dunlap's newspapers to the Society, were read.

The Rev. JOHN JONES SPOONER was chosen a Corresponding Member.

Voted, That the Librarian be requested to receive immediately from the printers such newspapers as are presented by them to the Society, and to take charge of those which are now in the hands of Mr. Wallcut.

Voted, That Messrs. Wetmore, Freeman, Belknap, and Dexter be a committee for superintending the publications for the year 1794.

Voted, That the members of the Society be enjoined to return to the Library all the books now in their possession, within a fortnight from the present time.

SPECIAL MEETING, JANUARY, 1794.

At a special meeting of the Historical Society, held at the President's house, on Friday, the tenth day of January, 1794, —

A letter from Messrs. Scollay, Bulfinch, & Vaughan,

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lar nature might "turn up" in that region. In a letter to Dr. Belknap, on file, dated Aug. 5, 1793, acknowledging the receipt of his letter of June 4, Mr. Clarke says: "You judge right in supposing I am a New England man, and that I am so in heart I readily confess; and, perhaps, no descendant of the first settlers . . . can feel stronger attachments or a more sincere solicitude for its prosperity than I do. I am making every inquiry for whatever may contribute to the very interesting views of your Society. At Shelburne several persons are settled; and, like many others, in the paroxysm of political madness, probably did that which in their cooler moments they would be ashamed of, when Boston was evacuated. I do hope something may be found that will be useful." — EDS.